Papers received by me

Boston Daily Advocate	6 per week	mornings
Free Press	1	wednesday
Evening Gazette	1	monday
N England Farmer	1	tuesday morn
	9	

100,000
20
2,000,000

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920.71
H869sA
Manuscript

Journal.

Monday 2 January 1832 left home at Noon and proceeded to Athol and put up at youngs.

Tuesday 3 - Proceeded to Boston in the Stage - arrived about 7 oclock at the Williams. Paid for passage 3 Dollars

Wednesday 4 - Legislature assembled at 10 oclock A.M. Chose Luther S Cushing Clerk of the house and William B Calhoun Speaker. a number of petitions presented. Lathrop 77 votes

Thursday 5. Met at 10 oclock A.M. a number of petitions presented for alterations in the 3 Article of the Bill of Rights and submitted to a special Committee. - Furnished Adeline 3 dollars for purchasing callico - Bot a cane 2/3; and paper quills &c. 67 cents

The House is very numerous - not much short of 500, and more than can find seats in the Representatives Room. A monstrous representation.

In the Senate William Thorndike of Essex chosen President, and Charles Calhoun Clerk. unanimously.

This day the weather more moderate the snow begins to thaw and clouds indicate rain - hope the weather will be more warm. very slippery walking.

By a resolve of the House each member is entitled to receive 9 news papers per week during the sitting of the Legislature and I have entered my name for the Boston daily Advocate and Clapp's Evening Gazette, a weekly paper, making 7 papers [illegible].

The Advocate is edited by B. F. Hallett an able Editor and is truly Antimasonic. I hope it will open the eyes of the people on masonry.

Arthur Map - Mr Pendleton to strike off 600 maps; he to keep the stone in reserve to strike off as many more as may be wanted. Leave with Mr Pend[illegible]

ton say 30 or 40 for sale taking a receipt
for the same. To sell at 1 Dollar. A proof
sheet to be ready next week or week after
next; and to be forwarded to Author after
I have corrected it, with the original, and
returned to me as soon as possible.
The copy right to be secured according to Law.
Show the proof to the Representatives of
New Salem, Wendell, Ashfield & Cohaine for
them to give names to Brooks, mills, Mountains
and ponds &c., if they can do it. Present
a Map to each of the following persons
Robert Williams, Henry Williams, M. Harts
horn and one for Commonwealth.

Friday 6th. Filled the vacant places
of Senators in the several Districts. In
Franklin Dr Smith of Ashfield was
elected by a large plurality. Col Longley
had 101 votes probably antimasonic.
No regard was had to the votes of the
people of the County; but Smith being
the National Republican Candidate
must be the man. The people I trust
will see to this at a future election.
— Mr Saltonstall was elected in Essex;
but Turner of Plymouth was rejected.

The absurdity of the present representation, in respect to numbers, appears to me very striking. To see a Regiment of men convened to transact the business of the state, a number which renders it extremely difficult even to find seats, and there without any conveniences for their business, evinces a total want of discernment in our people in forming a rational system of Government. I hope for a reduction in the numbers as soon as possible. But among so many wise people it is doubtful whether this can be effected.

Arthur starts for home tomorrow morning, in the Petersham stage. Left me 60 Dollars for defraying the expence of his map. See Pendleton's mem^o in my possession. The letting of the map began this day the 6th. Probable expense

600 at 4 Dollars — —	$ 24,
Letting about —	24
Paper say	24
Use of stone —	3
	75.

Mr Eddy the artist to letter – promises to do it well.

In the House this day, a disposition was evinced by some members to dispense with a Chaplain; but a majority was for keeping up the custom. How far the services of a Chaplain may be important in a body like our Legislature is a question of doubtful solution. Many no doubt consider it of importance, and suppose the blessing of Providence is not be expected without asking for its favors. Others treat the practice with indifference, and believe that religious services are here misplaced. In the minds of reflecting men religious impressions are always present - I mean ~~that~~ religious impressions which tend to render us rational beings, without an enthusiasm which makes us the blind dupes of ~~of~~ an imaginary zeal. that has no foundation in nature

Saturday 7th. In joint Convention of the two houses the Gov. & Lt Governor were qualified for the discharge of their offices. Edward D Bangs was chosen Secretary of the Commonwealth Hezekiah Barnard Treasurer of Commonwealth and John C Gray, William ~~Ferson~~ Luke Fiske, Joseph Bowman, Elijah Swift, Henry Hubbard

Josiah J. Fiske, Howard Lathrop and Patrick Boies were chosen Counsellors. Several Petitions were presented one by Henry Williams of Boston, praying for an alteration in the licence laws. - Visited Pendletons Lithographic office; Arthurs map lettering - looks well. Found Professor Hitchcocks Geological map preparing for publication; and Tuckers Light of Nature for sale at Carters and Henders. 4 Vol. at 9 Dollars. They have Col Willets Journal for 1 Dollar a Book I may want. The day more warm - some cloudy - ways very slippery and extremely difficult for travelling.

This day Rules and Regulations for the House reported and adopted.

Sunday 8. Attended meeting at Dr Lowells Church. A Mr Putnam of Roxbury preached upon Sobermindedness. He laid it down that men of well balanced minds would seldom indulge in levity, and frivolity; but did not object to a cheerfulness and rational enjoyment of harmless pleasantry. A rational discourse. Day cloudy & cold. Rain in the Night

Monday 9th Committees apointed on vari-
ous subjects; on one of which I am placed.
Governors message received and red from
the Chair. - Visitted the State Library.
a considerable collection of Books, those
of a miscellaneous nature may be drawn
out. By the U.S. Laws I find that to
secure a copy right of a map, a printed
title must be deposited in the Clerks office
of the District Court before publication;
and within two months from the date
thereof, a copy of the Record to be published
in one or more papers of the U.States; And
within 6 months after the publication
a map to be sent to the Secretarys office
to be preserved in said office. John W
Davis Clerke of said District Court;
office in the old Court house Court
Street.

Saw Col. Messinger at Merchants Hall
and many other old friends. Mr. Hallet
gave us a detail of the shufflings of
masons before the Committee of Rhode
Island. Thinks the Committee will
report as favorably as possibly on
masonry. But says he shall give us
in his Paper a full account as soon
as

proper. The Rhode Island Legislature assembles within a few days, and will receive the report.

Certificate to be inserted on Authors map. to secure the copy- "Entered according to the act of Congress the — day of —— 1832, by A.W. H. of the State of Massachusetts"

A "printed copy, of the title" what is this? will an impression from the Stone be so considered? I think it will.

This day directed the Free Press to be sent to me at the State House, as a member.

Tuesday 10th. Petitions presented on various subjects, and some debate on the appointment of an assistant Clerk; but no very important business transacted.

Rec'd a Letter from home - all well.

afternoon, a meeting antimasonic members from the County of Bristol, recommended that the members of Legislature, return home to attend the election of member of Congress next monday General Lincoln in the Chair. Some intelligent members made appropriate remarks. From the efforts which have been made by the fraternity, under the false name

of national Republicans which is now exclusively applied to their party I am apprehensive that Hodges will be elected. His declaration concerning the oath of the Royal arch mason, will have an effect upon the blind part of the electors; and the declaration of the Boston masons will have the same effect. The blindness of the people is astonishing, and the power of masonry seems to have been truly predicted by Brainard. But we must remove the deception by developing facts to the public. Much has been anticipated from the new daily, but it has thus far proceeded with such caution, that its effect has been limited. It is thought by some that this is the best course to pursue; but of this I have some doubts. Let facts appear to the people and if they will not open their eyes to the evils of masonry so mote it be.

Wednesday 11 No very important business this day. The messenger is ordered to supply the members with all the printed documents and I suppose we have them in abundance. Tomorrow I

am to sit on a Committee in Lobby No 7 over the Land office - at 3 oclock P.M. our sittings are short from 10 A.M. to 1 or two. P.M. Might not the business be pushed on with more rapidity? Most certainly with a smaller number of words. This day cast the contents of the town of Leyden, from Newcombs map of the town, and found it to be 11580 acres including ponds &c - probably not very accurate.

Thursday 12 - No very important business. Afternoon, sat on a Committee to examine the expediency of altering or abolishing the 9th article of the Constitution, relating to amendments. The Committee of whom Mr Ruggle of Barre is chairman, adjourned to meet at the call of said Chairman.
This day commenced taking the New England farmer as a member of the house. Making my 9 papers. Major D Stebbins and Col. D Wright arrived at Boston. Col. C E Billings joined us this day.

I have amused myself in perusing Capt. Franklin's 2d Expedition to the Shore of the polar sea, an entertaining work for the enquirer into Nature. His object was to trace and survey the coast from Coppermine River to Icy cape on the NW of America, and he succeeded in examining the coast from Log 109° to 149° W; and by the exertions of Capt. Beechy, in his Majesties ship the Blossom, who proceeded to icy cape by the Pacific & who surveyed the coast eastward to 156. a space of only 50 leagues remains to be explored west of Mackenzie River. Franklins party proceeded to the polar sea by Mackenzie River where it divided into two parties, one proceeding east and the other west untill obstructed by ice formed by the approach of winter. The whole party remained at a fort called after Franklin at Great Bear Lake about Lat 66. N. The variation of the needle towards Coppermine River was observed to be as high as 56° East. The coast is inhabitted by Esquimaux Indians who were found to be somewhat hostile, frequently plundering the boats. During the expedition, Capt Parry was exploring the land in a higher Lat. having penetrated by Baffins Bay. See his voyages. See Note A.

Friday 13. Some reports made, and read once or twice, but little business done. Adjourned at noon. Day pleasant.

The great number of members renders it impossible to perform business with precision. It is a fact that it is done by a few, who understand the routine, while a great proportion are merely negative, and scarcely know what is doing in the house. The representation is a nusance which must be removed from the Constitution.

Handed a small bundle containg Cotton thread, tape & ball of binding to Major D. Stebbins, for Mrs Hoyt.

Visited Drake's Book Store (Cornhill), where there is a great variety of 2d hand Books for sale, at reduced prices. Many ancient works are found among them. Mr Drake is preparing a new Edition of Hubbards Indian Wars, with copious notes and where possible pointing out the localities of the Indian battles & other exploits.

Received this day Cobbs Manual, containing information on the growth of Mulberry trees and the culture of silk, prepared under the direction of the State Government.

Saturday 14 - The business not of much importance adjourned at 12 when I went to the Library room and examined the Books. Johnson Life of General Green. 2 Vol. 4to. contains plans of many Battles, among the rest of Germantown, Guildford & Eutaws & Cowpens. Met Gov. Lincoln in the Library and held some conversation respecting the boundary line between this State and Rhode Island - said he thought the line must be run - that Rhode Island was taking measures to bring the case before a Court of the U.S.

Purchased at Drake's 2d hand Store, Ossians Poems in an 8vo. vol. price 3/9. (in Boards) Dog-cheap.

Visited Mr Garrison Editor of the Liberator - appeared intelligent and respectable. The case of this man is singular. For his open opposition to Slavery, he is looked to with vengeance by our Southern brethren. The Legislature of Georgia has recently offered a reward of 5000 dollars to any person who will deliver him in ~~Georgia~~ that State and this in a land where there is so much cry about republican Liberty. This is to offer

a reward for kidnapping, and it appears to me our Legislature ought to take some steps against such audacious proceedings — Mr Garrison has infringed no law of our State, nor of the U.S. yet he is vilified, and once exposed to the violence of some daring kidnapper or assassin. I am informed that he is not without some apprehensions of outrage upon his person, and takes precautions for his safety. Shall we any longer boast of the liberty and intelligence of the southern people. Slavery must come to an end, or liberty will disappear from our country. notwithstanding this state of things, many among us, as in the case of masonry, care very little about it. Indeed there seems to be an unaccountable apathy enveloping the minds of our people in this country and a grovelling principle of selfishness seems to predominate. The noble principles of patriotism which aroused our fathers to a jealousy of their rights, in 1776 seems to be extinct; and a strife for office is the great leading bonum that governs most of our people. Much is said

about education and the march of intellect; but after all what is this boasted pretence? our children are taught to read, write and cast up the interest upon a note, read novels & Newspapers, and go to market, and here the march of intellect come to a halt. In short the majority are just fitted to make tools for the aspiring dem-agogue, and to be tricked out of their rights. Can liberty be safe under such a state of things. At the same time, we have some men among us, of enlarged views, and who have made great progress in general know-ledge, yet they are viewed with jealousy by the other class, and of course are rejected from important stations. The truth of this position is no where more strikingly verified than in the present overgrown representation in our house of representatives. Here (say) 530 members are collected to transact the business of the little State of Massa-chusetts; a body unwieldy in the ex-treme, and it is in my mind very doubtful whether it can be constitutionally

reduced to the proper number.
When I came to this assembly I supposed we should all have a hand in its measures, and that all would understand the nature and bearing of the measures brought before it. But this is not the case. The business is transacted by a few, and a Bill may pass the house and a majority know little about it. True the Senate are a check upon us, and can stop any wild measure we may adopt, not perhaps from great superiority of talents; but from their small number and greater convenience for deliberation. In the house of representatives, a measure may be proposed of importance to a <u>town</u> or <u>county</u> and its members may feel an interest in it, and carry it through the usual forms; at the same time the other part of the house will feel little concern for it, and scarcely know its progress.

In the house this day a motion was made for printing the memorials or petitions from several towns, on

the proposed alteration of the Constitution as respects the reduction of representatives but was rejected. To me the importance of printing the documents did not appear ~~important~~; for it is presumed that every representative already knows the sentiments of his constituents as relates to the subject. All memorials and petitions should, I think, be read in the house, but this is not the practice; they are submitted to committees who alone learn their contents. The practice ought to be amended.

Sunday 15. Remained at home, perusing the 1st vol. of Malte Brun's Geography the large edition by Wells & Lilly. This volume contains Mathematical, Physical and Political Geography, which are treated with ability. The author appears to be well acquainted with subjects of which he treats. All of the phenomena relating to the earth and atmosphere, are noticed; and the Book is very useful and entertaining to the philosophical mind. This Edition is much superior to that in our Library it

consists of Vols. thinks 800. The part relating to the construction of maps is worth of the attention of the geological surveyor

In the evening Maj. D. Stebbins ~~called~~ and Col. D. Wright called in, and spent some time accompanied by my Brother; they have attended the meeting of the Pliny and gave an account of the ridiculous performance; some of which bordered on blasphemy. Will men continue to be thus imposed on by enthusiastic pretenders to christianity.

Monday 16th Several Bills read & passed to be ingrossed. A motion made to make capital the crime of poisoning with intent to murder–

Received of Mr Pendleton, a proof sheet of Arthur's Map; the shading appears rather heavy; but the greatest fault is in the shading representing the waters, as I expected. The work is not equal to engraving but as it is much cheaper it may come into practice.

This day we have a rumor that the cholera is in Boston; what foundation for this I cannot say; the disease is said to rage in Sunderland in England.

I know not but it may spread through the U.S. and whether a remedy may be found we cannot say. The small pox has been arrested in its destructive course, and without some substitute men may, perhaps, live to an age beyond that presented by Providence.

Mr Hallet writes from Providence that the investigating committee of Rhode Island have not yet made their report to the Legislature, in session about the time he wrote. Should they neglect to report, Mr Hallet, who has the principle part of their proceedings, will lay them before the public; and he says nothing has as yet appeared so conclusive against masonry; though he thinks the Committee will garble the report, and that there has been much management by a part of the Committee, to save masonry.

Tuesday 17 Little business - adjourned at 12. - Rules and orders distributed. Afternoon delivered anthem prospected to Capt. Maynard of Buckland, to be left at Lathrops in Greenfield, on thurs day next - at same time sent a letter

into the post office to Arthur notifying him of the destination of the maps; and also a letter to him by the Temples.
We are anxiously waiting to hear from the election of member of Congress in Bristol - fear Mr Ruggles is not elected.
Since the publication of the Boston certificat, masonry seems to assume a bolder character than it has done. They seem to think they have put an effectual blinder on the Jacks; and that under the false name of National Republicans, they shall finally put us down. But their oaths remain and still stare them in the face; and the investigation of masonry in Rhode Island, if it appears, must be to them a damper. Let us publish the oaths as given by seceders, and challenge them to deny them with their signatures. This they dare not do.
My Brother informs me that in a conversation with Mr Saltonstall, he freely expressed his opinion of the dangerous nature of Masonry; and that he considered it very powerful in the County of Essex. I think he will become ultimately become a firm anti

mason; the atrocity seems to be sensible of their vengeance and influence in his County. We must meet them with a bold and determined resolution, never to yield to their nefarious quits. They must — they shall be prostrated with the dust. As for myself, I am resolved to prosecute the cause, during my life, regardless of consequences - yield I never will, to such an infernal body.

The introduction of the Cholera in England excites some alarm in this City, and vessels from that Country I am informed are ordered, by the City authorities, under quarantine; but I fear this will prove ineffectual. Feeble are the efforts of man in staying the destructive malady: we must rely on higher power.

Wednesday 18. After the usual business, the house resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, Mr Blake of Boston in the Chair, on the question to alter the Constitution so as to reduce the representation in the House according to resolve of last session

— Mr Charles Hudson of Westminster opened the debate & he dealt some

on the impropriety of the district system, and brot. forward calculations to show the number of representatives under the proposed alterations. Said if the district plan was adopted it would unavoidably be necessary to embrace the system of electing by a plurality in the Commonwealth. that he expected great opposition to the proposed amendment &c

Dr Brooks of Bernardston said a few words, which I could not distinctly hear

Mr Foster of Brimfield, then took the floor, and presented many objections to the amendment. whether he is opposed to any reduction I could not determin. The Committee adjourned, reported progress and ask leave to sit again. Adjourned about ½ past one.

The arguments thus far adduced go to strengthen my belief in the plan of a district system, as the only one proper for our State; If the method of election by plurality is the necessary consequence of the system, what then? I see no strong objection to this mode. The objection to the

distinct plan arises from the consideration that many who are now elected as R. will be excluded from the House. By the amendment, the whole No. is not to exceed 350 members and this is clearly too large. At 2 Dollars per day the sum would equal 700 Dollars, to which add the pay of the Senate and all contingencies and about 1,000 dollars will be the per diem sum; and this × 60 = 60,000 dollars for a two months session, or 90,000 for 3 month. What a monstrous expenditure for the Legislature of this little Commonwealth. The blessings of liberty are great; but when this liberty takes the food and clothing necessary for the support of the body, and reduces us to poverty, it may cost more than its real value, and we are no better than slaves. Let the question of reduction be submitted, in its real shape, to the people, and I thinks they would readily decide it, and without much argument. A reduction must take place sooner or later for the people will not submit to such an enormous and unnecessary waste of money

Thursday 19. After usual business went into Committee of the whole Mr Blake in the Chair, on the amendment of the constitution. Mr Mann of Dedham occupied the floor, and opposed the amendment, and he demonstrated clearly that the small towns would be deprived of their constitutional rights that at least 100 thousand people would be deprived of their votes every two years, and that the scheme was in fact a districting one, and unequal in every point. The committee reported progress and had leave to sit again.

On a report of a Committee for appointing Commissioners to report a state of the Indians in this Commonwealth Mr Thaxter made a long speech in its favor, in which he dwelt upon the abuses this degraded race had, and was suffering from the unjust laws of the State. He was replied to by gentleman whom I did not know. Mr Blake moved that the Bill should lie upon the table which was carried. A Committee reported that the Clerk of the house should receive 10 Dollars per Day.

we have alarming news from Smyrna of the progress of the cholera at that place and a vessel is now in quarantine off our harbor from that port.

The weather is now very pleasant since the snow & ice melts fast, and renders the walking bad. Post papers with the mail for our paper.

A Lyceum lecture, at the Representatives chamber, this evening which I did not attend. To be continued at the same place every thursday evening during the session

Friday 20. Reading of Bills &c. a debate arose on the appointment of an assistant Clerk and finally a resolve passed giving the chief Clerk 1½ dollars per day with the right to nominate an assistant to be approved by the Speaker, and paid by the Clerk.

Resolved into Committee of the whole, Mr Blake in C. on the amendment of Constitution.

Dr Brooks of Bernardstone took the floor and made a speech of some length, which covered some

genius and historical research, but not much judgment. He contended for corporate rights much from the ancient practice both in England and this State, — said the people in the Country would never submit to the district system, — that those in its favor were looking to more educated delegates — those who were high minded gentlemen, and fond of great schemes and doubt upon the safety of men of good common sense for representation. I thought his argument not weighty.

Mr Sturgis of Boston, then arose and in a speech of some length, opposed the amendment which he thought would not remedy the difficulty. Said if we adopt it we might rest assured no other would take place for a long time. He remarked upon several positions of Dr Brooks and regretted they had been advanced. In the debates that have been made I am uncertain whether the opposers of the amendment are o ~~pposed~~ against the

a reduction in any shape. In the course of sitting memorials from several towns were read, generally in favor of an alteration of the constitution. Some proposed to reduce the number to 100 others to 150. by Districting the State.
Thursday liberty granted to Mr Somebody to deliver a lecture in the Representatives chamber, ^[in course] on what subject did not appear. It may be masonic, and I think we ought to have inquired into its nature before giving consent.

Saturday 21. After small business went into Committee of the whole on the Constitution Mr Clarking of Dorchester spoke lengthy in favor of amendment - said he was a new member - came from home undetermined, but had now concluded to give his vote in affirmative - expressed his surprise at the apathy of many on the important question - hope the discussion would continue until all were satisfied. Corporate rights he thought not of importance in the case - they had not been the principle of representation so long as Dr Brooks had stated - that the right to vote was inherent in all. He admitted

to shew that the small towns would have an excess over the representation of the middling ones, and presented many calculations in support of his positions. He acquitted himself handsomely.

Mr Gardner of Roxbury, followed in reply, and went largely into the imperfections of the Amendment. Remarked upon the district system, and would not oppose the system of plurality in voting, if it should be found necessary and he raised many important arguments against the amendment.

He is a small man, of no commanding appearance, but of a clear head; cool and collected, and a distinct speaker. The Committee adjourned with leave again to sit. It is my wish that the amendment should be rejected, and the District scheme brought forward for consideration; for certain I am that important objections can be raised against it. It would, if adopted at once remove all difficulties; render the house a respectable and convenient body and lessen the enormous expense which the state now pays for its representation. But our country representatives looks at the plan with jealousy.

Sunday 22 In afternoon attended Dr Lowells meeting. Under the meeting house is a large and convenient room fitted up for Sunday Schools with windows in the upper part to give good light. It a fine room. Perused the 1st Vol of John Jones Life of General Green Plans of the Battles of Germantown & Cowpens are included in this volume they are too contracted and defective in not giving the topography of the adjacent country, and lacking sufficient references. I think his description of battles rather defective; but many of his remarks are judicious: he however in some instances, varies from other historians and even contradicts them - Sometimes charges Col. Lee with inaccuracies; and is often severe on Tarltons descriptions. The work on the whole is worthy of Perusal. In the appendix he gives a narrative of the campaign of 1780 by Col Otho H Williams Adjutant Genl, containing much useful matter for Historians.

The weather this day rather colder than several of the preceding days.

By the papers I learn that Nutalls

is published and for sale at the Bookstores for $3.50. 1 Vol. - containing the birds of the U.S. and Canada with plates. Major Hardyn-shaw works, is about to be printed.

Monday 23. After usual business dispatched, went again into committee of the whole, and had leave to sit again. Several Gentlemen spoke. Mr Childs of Boston, at great length nearly all against the amendment. This day a motion made by Mr Green of Boston that the Committee on the pay rolls should be directed ~~not~~ to allow members pay, for the day they should attend the centennial celebration of Washingtons birth day. He said none had more veneration for that man than himself, but that we came to the Legislature to perform other business; & that he did not like to establish such a precedent - we might next be called to celebrate the birth of Hancock, Adams & others, and if we chose to spend our time thus it ought not to be at the expense of our constituents - I thought his arguments deserved consideration; but the motion was rejected with sneers on the part of many. And we saved our 2 Dollars

It is now evening, and while writing the fire bells of the city are ringing the alarm. A light appears distant in the S.W. we suppose it is in Roxbury or Brookline. Since the present establishment of the fire department in the City little alarm is occasioned by the fire ~~alarm~~ bells. By Mr Howland came a letter from Isabelle we have the satisfaction to hear that all are well at home.

Tuesday 24 usual business - then in Committee of whole Mr Barton of Oxford and Hobart of Leicester occupied the whole of the time both in favor of the amendment and able. Mr Barton was not only able but eloquent - he went over nearly the whole ground; and if ingenuity could establish the correctness of the proposed amendment his speech would have done it. He closed in a grave manner recapitulating his points and said we must propose something of a reduction to the people, or they would send other men here who would accomplish that object. I think him the most elegant speaker I have yet heard on the subject.

Sent 20 lb Coffee to family by Mr. Howland and a Coffe Pot in a Bucket of ours. — Examined the Catalogue of the Library in Congress, at our Library - Many rare works. Among them Parrys Nautical astronomy by Night 4to. Is this the Northern Navigator?

A Gentleman this day, shew me a statement of the time Genl Washington became a mason, from which it appears he was initiated to the 1st degree 1752 and in 1753 to the two next - taken from the records of the lodge where he entered, in Verginia or Maryland; and that he attended but a few times afterwards.

Wednesday 25. Business as usual. In Committee of whole Mr Tufts of Dudley spoke long against the amendment showing it would have an equal effect. After the speech the question was taken - For the amendment 257

against it —— 170

87 majority

And tomorrow assigned for the acceptance of the report by yeas and nays.

Read a Letter from Arthur —

In this decision I gave my vote for the amendment, but with considerable reluctance, under the impression that nothing better could be obtained. Had a districting system been proposed as a substitute I should have voted against the proposed amendment; and if the requisite number is not given to send out the question to the people shall advocate districting the State

Thursday 26. After the usual small business the question on the amendment of the Constitution was taken by yeas and nays. In favor of amendment 283
Against do — 197
Total 480

Two thirds — 320
Votes in favor — 283 (one third = 160)
wanting 37 for the requisite vote

So the project is at an end for the present. What shall be done — will the people submit to the present representation we must resort to the districting system, either large or small — By a resolution in the Senate it proposed to make districts for each representative provided no town be divided

To me this plan is about as objectionable as the other, and it appears impossible. By adopting large Districts, say equal to our County, all the difficulties seem to vanish. Let the maximum be limitted to 200, and we shall have 9 with a fraction.

The weather this day is cold, the thermometer 4 above zero at 1 o'clock P.M. a great change, and our house begins to feel the effects, which they exhibit by almost incessant coughing, so as to interrupt business. Col Stebbins I am this evening is in the City to go out tomorrow morn - have not seen him.

Friday 27 - usual business of Bills and petitions. Afternoon on Committee for abolishing or altering the 9th Art. of Constitution. adjourned to meet at Lobby No 9 this day fortnight, at ½ past 3 o'clock P.M.

In the evening heard an address by Mr Hatch at Merchants Hall on free masonry. It was convincing

exposition and delivered with great force and energy. He proved most clearly that the penalty of ~~masonry~~ masonic oaths was death; and that the declarations of the Rhode Island masons that their penalties extended only to expulsion was a perfect absurdity from their own books. A Committee consisting of myself, Justus Forward & Mr Whitmarsh, at the Lamb tavern, be a Committee to present a petition to the house for liberty to use the Representatives chamber, some evening for the purpose of delivering a lecture on Masonry for diffusing important knowledge.

Saturday 28. Common business done the bill for licensing taverns retailers & was brought up. H. Williams the Chairman explained the principles on which the bill had been framed, and the further discussion postponed to next week. Mr Williams acquitted himself handsomely and I saw no important objections to the Bill.

In this city there is a charitable society

who hold their Sunday meetings at Julien's Hall and hear lectures from a Mr Kneeland. Tomorrow evening a lecture is to be given on the pretended Book of Enoch, said to have been found by Bruce, the traveller, in Abyssynia which had been lost 700 or 800 years. Deism seems of late years to have increased in the U.S. Is not this result of of the system called ortho-doxy? I think this probable. When men of enquiring minds are told by their spiritual guides, that theirs is the system of the Bible, the absurdity is so striking to them, that they at once conclude the Book is false and without taking the pains to examine for themselves and being unacquainted with a more rational scheme they rest in their unbelief. If ever Christianity becomes universal it must be by presenting it in such a view as that it shall not appear hostile to pure science. The unitarian scheme seems to embrace their greatest and is now embraced by many men of sense and science!

Sunday 29. A Cold snowy day. remained at quarters and wrote Letters to Arthur and Crowcer. yesterday saw Mr Stevens our trigonometrical Surveyor at the State House, who seems to be eagerly engaged in his undertaking - Says he has just made a 2d Report to the Governor, more minute than the first - has been examining the country towards the S E coast, for a base of verification, but has not found a good one. Perused the 2d Vol. of Johnsons Life of Green. His plans are well engraved but as before too limitted. I find in addition to those already mentioned the Battle of Camden or Hobkirks hill - the seige of Ninety six. a map of Southern States and another smaller. Johnson appears hostile to Lee and conflicts with his details in many particulars. In the life of Green, as given by Johnson, the truth of the position that republics are often guilty of ingratitude to their servants is strikingly evinced. His great and good offices found enemies in the Southern States; and after the close of the war was challenged to fight

by a Capt Gunn, which the General very properly refused. The difficulty arose from some conduct of Gunn while commander. What strange characters are those Southern men I would not, on any conditions, reside among them. Gunn went armed after the challenge to protect himself against a personal attack from the Jury.

Monday 30 – Took up the License Bill (after some other small business) and debated on it some time. No decision. Bot. Col. Willets Narrative price 1 Dol. The Colonels services on the Mohawks, were not so various as I had supposed. He was out in the Colonial war in 1758, under Abercrombie & in the attack on Ticonderoga; but the description is not very particular of the movements – Shared in the Battle of Monmouth. Rec'd Letters from Arthur & the map corrected. All well at home. This Day very rainy and Streets full of water. Another proposition to alter the Constitution, so

that one half of the house, or a majority of them should decide to send it to the people. Submitted to our Committee

Tuesday 31 After the usual business of reading Bills and receiving petitions the Speaker made remarks upon a publication in Childs journal of last Saturday, in which he was censured for some decision he had made respecting order in the house. Mr Childs replied at some length and was called to order, and the house seemed to be about to commence loggerheads. It was finally resolved to raise a Committee of 7 to investigate the affair, to be chosen to morrow by ballot. To me it appeared like the trifling disputes that often arise among duelists respecting some ~~triffling~~ foolish points of honor, deserving no notice among men of sense. After this bustle we had considerable debating upon the License bill and some excitement was raised. This day the Governor communicated to both houses, the proceedings of Maine, in relation to their eastern boundary. They

deny the power of the U.S. to cede any part of their State to Great Britain, and call on Massachusetts to take the same course. Mr Coffin of the Land office says the line attempted to be established, will cut off 2.000,000 of Acres of excellent lands in favor of England, and does not see that she has any claim to it. I hope we shall not fight for it. Left Arthur's map with Pendleton.

Wednesday Feby 1. Debate upon the 3d Article of the Constitution, and choice of Committee to investigate the affair between the Speaker and Mr. Childs, a member from Boston.
In the evening Arthur arrived very unexpectedly, on the business of Clarke.
Thursday 2. This day a resolve introduced to abolish all trainings except the May inspections and submitted to a Committee of 11. Considerable debate on the subject in which it was urged that as Congress were now about to take up the subject it was useless for the States. By others it was

said this was the old Sorry, but they
had done nothing of late and therefore
would not at the present session. Mr
Shorey of Pittsfield treated the militia
system with severity and ridicule
and met a sharp reply by Mr Phillips
of Salem who was one of the joint
Committee on the militia. He with
considerable facility in speaking seems
to think he can carry projects thus
knowing beating his antagonist. After this
debating the License law or Bill was
taken up and Mr Mann spoke at
some length. I left the house before
he ended.

Friday 3. Debate upon the License
Bill Mr Mann and Mr Blake No
question taken. Saw Mr Stevens
who made some excuses for his
report in regard to his appointments.
said he wrote it in a hurry and
should soon make another report
in which he would give a def-
finite statement if necessary. But
this is rather improbable.

Saturday 4 - Debates upon the License bill - no question taken - Resolved to meet at 9 o'clock A.M. Procured the 34 No. Encyclopedia & paid 4 Dollars - Bot 2 pamphlets, 45 cents concerning Oregon Territory. Arthur set out for home in the morning.

Sunday 5th - Snow Storm all day kept at home. Examined the art. Thermo Electricity or Electromagnetism a new subject. The principle laid down is, that the magnetical effect of the electrical current has a circular motion round it. Many curious facts are laid down respecting the electrical current through various metals and its operation upon the needle of the compass, which may account for some strange anomalies sometimes observed; and which show the extreme difficulty of making accurate surveys with the magnetic needle. Is the effect of wagon wheels passing by my compass, as I have observed, be explained upon the principles laid down in this article? The writer closes with

this remarks "The new discoveries, in short reveal to us the world of secret motions, whose laws are probably analogous to those of the universe, and which deserve to be the subjects of our most earnest meditations"

By a couple of Pamphlets relating to the Oregon Country which I procured it appears a project is on foot to form a company of emigrants for that Country next spring. They are to rendezvous at St. Louis and proceed overland to the Country, and form settlements on the Columbia River. They want some aid from Congress, in the outfit. The Country is represented as very fertile and the climate much more mild than in corresponding Latitudes on the eastern coast of N America. The Indians are represented as numerous, which is an unfavorable circumstance to the proposed emigration.

Examined also Parrys 2d Voyage, an edition without ~~plates~~ maps - a defect

Monday 6. Debate on the License law. H Williams made a good speech in favor and besides strong reasons offered, gave Mr Mann a pretty severe chipping. The motion to strike out the indictory clause failed and the Bill was re committed to the old Committee. From the remarks which have been made on the subject of the Bill I am led to doubt whether any benefit has, or can arise in the cause of intemperance from any Legislative enactments. The cause of intemperance must be sustained by the exertions making to render drinking disreputable, and not by force, or compulsion. But it is said lesson the facilities for procuring ardent spirits and you lessen the quantity drunk: while others say legalise the sale and it will be used as much as if all might deal in it - all will procure as much as they want. If more engage in the business than can find a profit, they will abandon

the business and buy something else for a living. If the evils of intemperance are as great as is pretended, then say some, prohibit its distilation and importation and thereby cut off the source of the evil. On the whole I am in favor of the Bill, with a few modifications; and thinks it embraces all the checks and restraints of the old laws now scattered through our Statute Books, which cannot be understood but by a long and laborious research.

Tuesday 7. Debates on the License Bill, which was referred to the Committee with additions. After this, took up the third article of the Constitution. Speakers Buckingham and Hobart and another a Bill for abolishing all training in protects, providing for one day by companies. If this is not contrary to act of Congress, it is the proper step to be taken

Wednesday 8. Debates on 3d Article of Constitution. Speakers Blake against and others for. Amendments proposed. Laid on the table for further discussion. New Petitions brought forward.

Thursday 9. Acting on 3d Article of Con. Amendments proposed and sent back to Committee or proposed to be. Some for abolishing the article. Accepted the report of Committee on the Lynn Election, by which the members presence their seats.

In debate this day on the question of amendment I witness a procedure which I did not expect in the House. Mr Hobart an aged and respectable member, while speaking was put down by the disgraceful noise from coughing & shuffling of the members in various parts of the House. This took place in Massachusetts, the boasted country of steady habits & of moral & religious perfection. Talk no more of N York corruption & lobby members. This is the fruit of our 530 representatives, to guard the rights and priviliges of the people, at the rate of 1500 dollars per day. Shameful conduct and a stain upon our State. Sent a letter to Arthur by mail. A Stormy day of snow.

on the mode of doing business in the Legislature, much may be said. Whether the practice is the best I know not, and perhaps I ought not to condemn or approve with my short experience; and whether any erroneous practice can be remedied, with the present numerous representation is doubtful. Of one thing I am certain, which is that business is sometimes transacting in the House of which the majority know little or nothing. A petition is presented, without a reading & ~~presented~~ handed to a Committee who report against the prayer, and is expelled by a vote so called of the house, at the same time the contents of the paper is wholly unknown to all except the Committee. The practice ought to be to read all petitions in the house before they go to a Committee to see whether it will sustain them.

Friday 10 The Committee to whom it was recommitted, reported a few Amendments to the proposed alterations of the 3d Article of Constitution which was agreed to. The question

was then taken by yeas and nays and the result was as follows

Yeas	347
Nays	90
Total	437

Two thirds = 291 1/3, & therefore a constitution vote for amendment

The Report of the Committee on the Petition of Amherst College was then taken up and Mr Fuller of Boston took the floor and delivered a speech against it. He contended that the College was not required by the people of the state, as we already had two; that the Charter was given at the request of a few gentlemen who had established an institution on their own resources with the avowed declaration that the State was not to come under ~~any~~ obligations to give any subsequent aid and that if they had incurred debts they could not discharge they had no reasonable demands on the State. He touched upon the means

they had practised to introduce religious excitement in the college, by making a distinction between students who were hopefully pious and those who were not. Such a distinction as he should not be willing to have his children submit. He did not wish to dictate to them their religious notions, but if these were taught to the students they could not expect to be aided by the government of the State. He remarked upon their implied threats to appeal to the people, if we refused to grant them the required aids, and upon their declaration that they relyed upon their merits. His speech was delivered with a considerable mildness, and good nature; and on the whole, I think, he acquitted himself handsomely. The amount of the case stands as follows. A party of orthodox gentlemen hostile to Cambridge College got up a scheme to establish an opposition College at Amherst. They procured a hundred subscription which the said

sufficient to support the institution and asked the Legislature for a charter to enable them to manage their funds declaring at the same time that this was all they wanted. Having obtained this they went on to construct their buildings according to the style of other colleges, and thereby contracted debts beyond their power to pay, with the deceptive funds, no doubt with the belief that after the College would had got in operation, they might dip into the purse of the Commonwealth to defray their expenses. Having thus created a demand upon the Commonwealth they were confident they should not be refused the sum they wanted, and thus they should establish their College on firm ground, in opposition to the will of the people! Now suppose another party was to use the same means to establish a College in any other part of the state, should we not be bound to foster it on the same ground, and principles as those informed by this Amherst Col-

Saturday 11th Various business as usual, such as reading bills & presenting petitions. Among the latter I presented one from Sundry Gentlemen of the City of Boston praying liberty to occupy the Representatives chamber, on the evening of the 17th of February current, to hear a Lecture on masonry. This brought up the monster and its faithful supporters, the blood Jacks, and for some time the attempt was made to beat down the petition by ridicule. But several gentlemen entered the field of debate, in favor of the petition, and the opposers soon found that a refusal would operate unfavorably to the cause of masonry, and some Gentlemen of the order spoke in favor of the Petition. On taking the vote a large majority were found who thought best to grant the request. Mr Hallet is to deliver the Lecture, and I am mistaken if he does not convert some of the Jacks. — In conversation with Mr Shaw of Lanesboro, he informed me that he once took the first

degree of masonry and that he was so disgusted with it that he abandoned it at once - that he was the first seceder in Massachusetts - that he had never failed to speak of it as he thought and finally, that it was the damndest nonsense that he ever saw - This is coming home to the point at once; and like every man of sense he owns it in plain language. Some time after I saw several masons about his person, in close conversation I know not whether they will mon genize him.

Sunday 12 Rainy - Staid at home In the afternoon Mr Borden called on us and spent the afternoon. Had much conversation upon the Trigonometrical Survey. Seems to understand its principles. Expects to go with Mr Stevens next summer if he will give him 900 Dollars per year. He is a self taught man and I presume an ingenious mechanist. Very Liberal in his sentiments on religion - Thinks the clergy have an undue influence

on Society, and that Mr Channing is the only rational clergyman he ever saw. A warm enthusiast and understood all the twistings and turnings of man.
Read Mr Flint's Letters on the western Country. He was a Clergyman who went from this part of the County I suppose as a missionary and afterwards took up his residence at Cincinnati. In his Geography much is extracted from his Letters.
Monday 13 – Fine & pleasant weather. Debates upon the Report to Amherst College on motion of Mr Foster, the sum reduced to 25,000 dollars. He made a long speech in favor of that grant. In reply Dr Brooks took up the subject and animadverted severely on the college – said it was not wanted by the public, nor was a college education very important – we have many eminent men who obtained their knowledge otherwise – Schools which qualified men for business were what was wanted by the Country. Mr Buckingham also spoke up the subject and pressed the importance of the grant, because a good

Education might be obtained at Amherst at a lower rate than at Cambridge. But the College at Williamstown had it occurred to his mind would have done away all of his arguments.

Tuesday 14 – Debate on the Amherst College Petition. Mr Bliss of Springfield in favor – Dr Brooks against, and Mr Speaker Calhoun in favor. The speech of the last was candid and went to show, that the College was respectable and no more sectarian than others. Said all were sectarian in a degree and that every member in the house was so also. In the course of his remarks he paid a great compliment to Professor Hitchcock for the scientific knowledge which he had displayed in his Geological Survey of the Commonwealth. To all this gentleman said I nearly agree; but am far from believing that we ought to grant the 25,000 dollars as proposed. How is this money to be raised, when there is a deficit in the revenue of the Commonwealth of Dollars for 1832. It is

by a direct tax of 100,000 dollars on the people of this Commonwealth; and this sum will be found too low. Was our treasury rich the case would stand in a different point of view, but even in this case we have many objects on which we ought to bestow it in preference to the Colleges.

In the afternoon the Bells of the City gave the alarm of fire and we saw the smoke ascending in Columns to the eastward of our house. I soon repaired to the spot, and found the upper part of the Museum at the upper part of Court Street^lane^, and had a fair view of the operations of the fire engines. Two were stationed near the building, or fire, from which their hoses were carried into the chamber windows and delivered streams of water. Extending from there eastward through Court Street to reservoir of water in State Street, below the old State ~~Street~~ ^house^, were a dozen or more engines at work. By one engine the water is raised from the reservoir ^by suction^, and forced on to the next, in the hose laid along the Street; thence to another, and so

untill the water is delivered into the engines playing on the fire; by which it may be carried to great distance. I had supposed the water was brought to the delivery engines by suction as it is improperly called; but I have found my mistake. In elevations of more than 32 feet, this would be impossible; but by the method adopted, the water may be carried to much greater hight and perhaps to all parts of the City. The Museum, I suppose, sustained considerable damage, but the roof was saved and did not fall in, and the lower rooms appeared uninjured. How the fire took I could not learn. — During the operation of the engines, though the throng of people was great, I found no confusion or unnecessary noise. Note Ladders were used in ascending to the upper stories.

Wednesday 15. After an ingenious speech of Mr Fuller against, and Dr Pomroy of Stockbridge & Mr Speaker in favour of the Amherst petition, the question was taken and decided by a large majority that it be indefinitely postponed: This produced some

excitement among the friends of the Petition but the majority was firm. I think the question was not decided from any prejudice against the College in consequence of their former management, but from the low state of the Treasury. We must now borrow to discharge our own debts, and we think we cannot do this for those of Amherst. It is time to stop grants of all kinds except those which are absolutely necessary.

Thursday 16. The principal part of sitting was spent upon the amended Bill relating to the License Law. An attempt was made to recommit it to the Committee on the Judiciary, upon the ground that it was not agreed to by a majority of the reporting Committee. The Debates were warm and severe and some personalities were introduced. Henry Williams display ed his talents with thunder, upon Mr Mann, Mr Phelps & a member from Newbury Port. Mr Shaw took the floor in support Williams, and gave the opposing gentleman some close cuts in his usual mild but forcible

The Bill was finally laid upon the table and ordered to be printed, by a strong majority. Shaw, I think, is one of the most powerful men in the house; He is cool as a cucumber, and presents his argument with great mildness, but still with a cutting severity; but he is always listened to with great attention. Phillips is a fine brand and though possessed of some talent, he soon disgusts the house by his aristocratic manner. Mann is some thing of a speaker, but assumes too much of the quibbling Lawyer. Mr Blake spoke on the subject, but with great vehemence. He has talent, but labors excessively in his arguments which in some measure destroys their effect. - The proposed amendment of the 9th art. of the Con. was meant taken up with a substitute by Mr Tufts of Dudley. A proposition was this day made to endow all the Academies in the State which, I conclude, was a ruse de guerre to defeat any grant, for any literary institution

Friday 17 Business not very important it consisting of various subjects, and some thing (I believe) on the alteration of the 9th Art of Constitution. In the evening Mr Hallet delivered an excellent address on Masonry in the Representatives Hall, which was crowded to the brim and several 100s could not enter. He successfully demonstrated the evil nature of Masonic oaths from the masonic works or Books, attested by their great Grand High Priests and other officers; and the audience, large as it was, listened more than 2 hours with breathless silence to the discourse At the close a vote was carried by a large Majority requesting Mr Hallet to repeat the address at some future time. It is thought that it had a most salutary effect, and some who had attended but a little to the subject, expressed their surprise at the developements made by Mr Hallett. The remarks made upon the "1200" masons were judicious and forcible and he challenged Masons to come forward in defence of their Institution and to do it in the Representative Room

for which purpose they should have his consent. This I trust they dare not do - nor can they with all their finesse suppress inquiry into this system of folly and wickedness
Saturday 18. Usual small business Some debating on the License bill - The amendment proposed by the minority Committee laid on the table and ordered to be printed. Much Stratagem is used to defeat the original Bill; but a majority seem to be in its favor. This day a committee raised to report when the Legislature may rise & to examine the expediency of an adjourned session.

Sunday 19. Stormy kept house.

Monday 20. Rainy. Small business in the house -
Tuesday 21 - Various small business adjourned to 9 oclock tomorrow

Wednesday 22. Usual business in the morning. Took up Van Petten's Bill. Some spirited remarks

Petition of sundry Citizens of Boston
asking leave to occupy the Representatives
Chamber on the ~~of~~ evening of the 17th ~~day~~ of
February current for the purpose of ^Monday^ a Lecture
on the subject of Currency –

Pres[illegible]

[illegible]

Petition of Sundry

Pet Petition of

Sundries

Petition of

Sundry Citizens

of Boston

Petition

31
29
23
83 — 83
160
20
180

adjourned at noon to attend the ceremonies of the day - the Washington centennial.. Marched in procession by a circuitous course to old South and heard the oration of Francis C Gray - 2½ hours long. Nearly all the uniformed corps came out as well as the engines of the city. The troops are in general superbly equipped and handsomely, turned out. In short every thing but fitness for fighting. They are generally young men of handsome appearance, ~~many~~ some companies armed with rifles the officers covered with epaulettes. The appearance of the troops is just calculated to charm those who mistake appearance for reality. My heart would bleed to see them drawn up to oppose the mechanized ~~regulars~~ troops of regular armies before whom they would vanish like the fog ~~before the~~ ^in a morning^ sun. Granting them all the spirit essential to make soldiers, they could act in concert in large bodies, even their discipline would be found as nothing when death assaulted them in the manners

Thursday 23. Took up the Valuation Bill. much debating on the subject. Many Statements made by members concerning the operations they had gone through. It appeared they had performed much labor, and yet there was some doubt as to the equality of the results. Some Counties have been "doomed" to considerable amounts and property seems to have been differently estimated in different counties. The Report on the case of Mr Speaker and Mr Childs was made, by which the latter was decided to have been out of order, and is required to apologize. The report was laid upon the Table. We commence two ~~Sessions~~ sittings in a day this Day, which is rainy.

Friday 24. Debate upon adjournment supposed to be necessary on account of the failure of Congress to pass on the apportionment Laws. Resolve laid upon the table. After which took up Mr Phillips's Amendment to the License Law. Mr Phillips delivered a long speech in its favor afternoon followed by Mr Foster & Blake against it, and Mr Parish of

Newbury port in favor. The house became impatient and tryed to stop him, but at length he finished his remarks, and the question was taken on the amendment and negatived. The 2d Bill is now to be discussed. During the latter debate there was some confusion in the house and Mr Parish though he discovered considerable talent was almost driven from his ground. The Bill in favor of Mr Vans was passed to be engrossed. This caused considerable excitement & some of the Newspapers do not spare the house. An attempt was made to decide the question by yeas and nays, but it failed. I suppose this was to intimidate the friends of the Bill, but we were not alarmed. If the Estate of Cochran owes Vans then let the proper Court determine the point and not we.

Saturday 25. Reading Bills &c. Took up the License Bill and nearly finished it. Some small amendments proposed & adjourned without taking the question (main) Throughout the whole proceeding on the Bill H Williams (the Chairman) has exerted himself in its favor with much ability

and fruit to nought the fines and strategems of certain Lawyers opposed to it. The Bill appears to me, to guard all the avenues to vice & immorality resulting from a use of Spirits, in as full and ample a manner as the old laws, without their ambiguity and labor of hunting up in ninety Volumes: And is a codification of them which may be understood by common sense –

In the State Library I find 3 Vols of the New Hampshire Historical Society containing useful matter, and among the rest Penhallows Indian Wars a scarce work – Also 22 Vols of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The 1st 20 make two series. the third is of course commenced. The work contains a fund of matter for Historians.

Sunday 26 Fine fair Day. Attended meeting afternoon. Mr Barrett preached at Dr Lowells House. Barrett is a cable tow.

Monday 27. Entered Arthur map at the Clerks office of District Court & paid 1 Dollar – Passed the License Bill by yeas & Nays and debated the proposed alteration of 9th Article of the Constitution. A great variety

of opinion on the subject. Happears im-possible to make any alteration and I think Massachusetts is in a pitiful situation. The people must rouse and chain their Representatives to the banks or we shall be ruined.

Bought Crabbs Dictionary of Knowledge 9/-

Tuesday 28. Tax Bill brought up and discussed - In general opposed to a State Tax, because we have money in the treasury, but which is loaned to Banks - Afternoon small business & Lowell Rail Road. Day snow and rain - very warm in the house. Rec'd Deerfield paper in the evening - no important news but good matter

Wednesday 29. Debate on adjournment but postponed - Some small business respecting rail ways - Afternoon Bill on the punishment of Death brot. up but no decision

Thursday March 1. Spent the day on the Report of the Committee on Mr. Childs breach of orders. Afternoon Childs began his defence, a most able one it is - This day leave obtained to use the Representatives Chamber next Tuesday evening to hear Mr. Hedlets address. Sent 100 maps to Ashton by Col. Wilson

Friday 2 - Day spent on the Childs affair - decided at 7 o'clock P.M. as disrespectful to the speaker and the house & deserving the censure of the house.

Mr Childs made a most able defense - and evinced much learning & research into parliamentary procedure - a decision in favor of Childs would I think have produced a resignation of the speaker, but this had no influence with me. It was urged by some that we had no right to punish a member for conduct out of the house and that we might touch the freedom of the press by such procedure. But to me it appeared that if an Editor while a member was not at liberty to libel the house with impunity. Other Editor for the same offence might be amenable to another tribunal.

Saturday 3. Usual small business. and amendments to the Bill on licenses - passed to be engrossed in a new draft - Day very pleasant

Sunday 4 - Attended Dr Lowells meeting in the afternoon
Monday 5. Bills read as usual. Took up the Bill on the abolishment of capital punishments and finally gave it an indefinite postponement. It was attempted to make treason, murder & arson capital; and other high crimes, such as Robbery, Rape and burglary punishable for life. Some denied the right to put to death in any case whatever. But to me it appeared plain that the right thus to punish might be proved from first principles, even without scripture. Thus I have a right to kill to save my own life, and two three and any number have the same right under similar circumstances, and so of the whole community. If however the community ~~have~~ upon principals of humanity choose to imprison the offender for life, they may do it at their expense, but they are not compelled to do this by any natural law or obligation. It may be humane to imprison the culprit and try to reform him, but to compel the people to support him in prison for this purpose is an infringe

ment of rights. If a man steals my property and thereby renders it impossible to sustain myself and family, and there be no law to prevent the injury I see not why I may not kill him to defend it; and if so the community have the same right. If this is done it is from humanity and not because ~~for~~ the rights of the offender require it

Tuesday 6. many Bills past - Evening address by Hallet on masonry a full house, who seems to feel the Subject. Mr Peirpont present I think a good centleman.

Wednesday 7. Sunday business of various kinds

Thursday 8. Usual business & a private Setting - gallows cleared - Debate on imprisonment for Debt.

Friday 9 - Debates on imprisonment for Debt. Bot a Booke on Cholera Morbus 4/6 & Battle at Concord 1/-

Saturday 10 on imprisonment for debt and Sunt Session. adjourned to 10 oclock monday next.

Sunday 11. ~~&~~ Remained at home, perusing a work on the Cholera Morbus (French). In the work the flattering hint is given, founded on many circumstances, that the disease will not reach France. But its progress in England militates against the supposition. A report says the disease has reached Mobille in Floraday, but is doubted. In conversation with Mr John Biglow of Boston yesterday he declared to me that he was not and never should be a knight templar - that he considered that order as a corruption of Masonry, and was desirous of having a paragraph in Hallets paper which made it appear that he was present & partook of the ceremonies, connected. This I communicated to Mr Hallet. Thus far Mr Biglow very well. Go on Sir and abandon the whole system.

Monday 12 - Warm rainy Morn - Some thunder. An arrival Carthright brings intelligence that the Cholera has reached Edinburgh. News to Feby 6th - Levant sitting, which will probable be changed soon.

Afternoon took up the Bell giving Charlton power to regulate the burial of the Dead

It appears a Roman Catholic Bishop has purchased a tract of Land on Bunker hill and intends after consecrating it to use it for a burying ground for his faithful followers. This is objected to by Charlestown and they asks for a law to empower them to regulate the location of such grounds, in a manner similar to Boston. The Catholics are not willing to be buryed with heretics or in their yards, and all who die in this part of the Country are to be brought to Bunker hill. In case of contagious disorders the Charleston people think this would be ~~disorders~~ dangerous and that they have no right to do it. It is said on the other side that they have a right to follow their religious notions without molestation &c. To me it appears that when religion becomes too whimsical it is time to hold a little stricter ~~to~~ toleration. If the Catholics choose to live among us, they must give up some of their notions and not consider themselves as intense separate people and us mere heretics.

Tuesday 13. The Gov. having communicated that the Legislature of Maine had taken off their injunction of Secrecy, we opened our doors and galleries and the matter on which we have acted was laid open to the people. The subject related to the eastern boundary of Maine. It seems that State have consented to the establishment of the boundary of the King of the Netherlands probably for a remuneration and the question was with us whether we should send an agent to Washington to guard & see to our rights. The Senate passed a resolve for that purpose which we did not concur in; but authorized the Gov. to employ ~~the~~ our Senators & Representatives in Congress for that purpose.

Much Debate had on the Bill for abolishing imprisonment for debt, but the house appeared to be opposed to the measure. A little time will correct the error.

Wednesday 14 - Various business, among others the Bill for abolishing tax &c; and on this occasion I ventured on a speech of some length, which appeared to have some effect; and I succeeded

(Note A. Astronomical Instruments furnished for Capt Franklin Expedition Two small Sextants, 2 artificial horizons. 2 Altitude Instruments, a repeating circle for lunar observations & a small transit telescope for ascertaining the rates of the chronometers. Besides a dipping needle, a plain needle very delicately fitted for the diurnal variation; 2 of Katers azimuth compasses and a pocket compass for each officer. Atmospherical instruments - 2 electrometers, 2 of Daniel's hygrometers, Leslie's photometer and hygrometer, besides a good supply of mercurial & spirit thermometers of different sizes

Suns alt measured, by bringing its upper limb to the top of the land 4 miles distant, the elevation of which had been ascertained to be 8 minutes, and the other to its base, the depression of which was 2 minutes. The mean of both observations corrected for refraction by the tables gave a result of 65°. 11-56 N Lat at fort Franklin. The alt. taken from the frozen surface of Bear Lake)

compliments from sundry Gentlemen for its execution. Mr Blake told me it was elegant or eloquent - others said I had carried the bill without doubt. At six o'clock the question was taken and carried to be engrossed by a large majority, notwithstanding the opposition of most of the members of Boston.

Thursday 15. Bills vs Hawkers Pedlers &c discussed and indefinitely postponed. I spoke on the subject - quoted the Laws in existence + remarked upon the Bill.

Friday 16 - Bankrupt System brot on and discussed - Spoke short on the subject. Adjourned without a decision. Elijah Williams arrived at Boston. Antimasonic meeting at State house

Saturday 17. Bill on the insolvent Debtors discussed and lost 105 - to 233. a good Bill, by which an honest man might pay his debts without great cost. Said a few words upon it.